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PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE
Reference SWNCC 304/1.2 & 6

THE PROBLEM

1. To study the problems in coordinating the implementation of Psychological Warfare in case of an emergency.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. At the present time no plans exist for the use of Psychological Warfare.

3. No recognized governmental agency is charged with the overall responsibility for the conduct of Psychological Warfare in an emergency.

4. Relatively few personnel are familiar with Psychological Warfare activities.

5. Active Psychological Warfare is being carried on against this country by the USSR.

6. More aggressive US Psychological Warfare activities will be required in the future.

DISCUSSION

7. Psychological Warfare is a weapon of war and an instrument of peace. Its method of application depends upon national ideologies and the world situation. However, the practice of psychological warfare has been accepted as a means of obtaining national aims and furthering foreign policy by all nations. The leading exponent of Psychological Warfare in World War II was Germany and the methods used by the Germans have been adopted as a point of departure by the USSR.

8. Psychological Warfare tactics and techniques as developed by the USSR have a potential capability, unless thwarted, of world domination without active combat. The means of fighting psychological warfare are passive or aggressive and since the best defense will continue to be offensive, it is assumed that the United States will of necessity instigate counter psychological warfare activities in the very near future.

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9. The conduct of Psychological Warfare requires:

a. An overall plan initiated by the National Security Council with the approval of the Senate for implementation by appropriate governmental agencies with the objective of combating USSR activities and furthering western ideology.

b. An area plan developed by the Departments of State or Defense which is in consonance with the overall plan and may be implemented by the appropriate department for the purpose of furthering foreign policy or influencing selected nations.

c. A tactical plan developed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in accordance with overall and area plans for the purpose of influencing the opposition and obtaining an immediate objective.

10. The requirements for developing plans may be met by working staffs in the various governmental agencies. However, the responsibility for the implementation of such plans requires an organization not now available within the structure of the Government. This central psychological warfare agency will require the means to implement white and black propaganda activities such as performed in World War II by OSS, OWI, FBI, CIC and the Military Services and must, of necessity, use existing federal agencies to the maximum.

11. It is conceivable that the functions of existing governmental agencies could be extended to include the necessary personnel, equipment and facilities for implementation of Psychological Warfare. However, the coordination of these activities depends on adequate communications and must be under centralized control.

CONCLUSIONS

12. It is concluded that the functions of the existing agencies of the government such as Departments of State, Defense and Justice should be extended

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to include personnel, equipment, facilities and funds for the implementation of Psychological Warfare in war and in an emergency.

13. It is also concluded that a Central Psychological Warfare Staff Agency should be organized now within the State, War, Navy and Air Force Coordinating Committee.

14. That a Director should be appointed as Chairman of the Agency and he should be charged with the responsibility for coordinating the implementation of Psychological Warfare activities within the governmental agencies to that degree necessary for effective operation.

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